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Column One by David Courtney

THE French Foreign Office is hopeful. The American press, reflecting the views of the State Department and the Pentagon, is not. In this difference is implied a fairly even chance for the Deputies' meeting and for the conference of the four Foreign Ministers which is expected to come afterwards. The German fear, shared by Mr. McCloy and the U.S. General Staff, that France is ready to go as long as it can be regarded as certain Russian anxieties as well, looks as if it has shrewd reason behind it. In which event, of course, the Soviet Deputy will not be sitting down to conferences at which, on every conflicting issue, they can be sure of being outvoted. During the past few weeks, Bonn has been nervously doing its best to convince the Americans that, basically, the French viewpoint is nearer to the Russian than to that of the United States. From this, the Germans have been arguing that the Four-Power conference can only imperil American plans for the defence of Western Europe.

Dr. Adenauer and his advisers were startled by a mid-February statement of Mr. Francois-Poncet, French High Commissioner in Germany, who said at Frankfurt that the Soviet should be asked for an explanation of its proposals on German rearmament, and whether its general attitude towards Germany had changed since the meeting of the four Foreign Ministers in June, 1949. He made it clear that the French Government thought a conference necessary "if only to weigh the Soviet proposals." Bonn took this to mean that France might give sympathetic consideration to a Russian proposal for the neutralization and unifying of Germany. The proposal, and the fact of French willingness to go seriously into it, worries the Bonn Government particularly because of the belief that it would be popular among a large section of the West German population, who would see in it the promise of relief from tension and from the risk of having to take the impact of a devastating war.

THE Americans are just as worried about this proposal as the German Government at Bonn. At any rate, Stewart Alsop, the "Herald-Tribune" columnist, was quoted yesterday by the New York correspondent of this newspaper as saying that the plan for the neutralization and unifying of Germany is a "nightmare," which has begun to haunt those principally responsible for American foreign policy. Mr. Alsop says that "any such apparently reasonable Soviet offer" would have as its objective the splitting of the Western alliance and the weakening of the security of Western Europe, which, in the opinion of the Pentagon, "can never be defended without German participation." There is reason to suppose that Mr. Alsop has put the official American view fairly accurately. It is a fact that after the statement made at Frankfurt by Mr. McCloy spent a day at the telephone getting what assurance he could from Paris.

THE Americans have the reputation of being realistic and of being able to cut their losses without too much ado. It is always possible therefore that they might not be unwilling to change their policy towards Germany if that seemed the only effective thing to do. The Pentagon may, indeed, regard a German army as essential to the defence of Western Europe. It also knows very well that a German army is out of the question this year and, even if given the chance, would not amount to much next year. It is aware of French objections to the raising of a German army and of the lukewarmness of Britain's support for the plan. It is acutely conscious of the shakiness of Dr. Adenauer's Government and of the reluctance of a big part of the West German people to buy, in Pastor Niemoller's words, "new rights of sovereignty in return for supplying an army," which would "provoke war." Weighing up all these factors, the American leaders may yet be prepared to compromise on the subject of German rearmament.

Tel Aviv, March 7.

Bonn Gov't Gets Wide New Powers

BONN, Tuesday (Reuters). — The Allied High Commission today conferred new powers on the Bonn Government including the right to build its own Foreign Office and set up diplomatic relations with foreign countries.

At the same time the West German government assured the Allies that it would give them free access to strategic raw materials in Germany. (See Page 3).

Dr. Adenauer, in a statement in Bonn today, acknowledged the Allied High Commission's new powers and external debts and in principle for post-war debts arising from Allied economic assistance.

Pre-war debts would include those of "other corporate bodies subsequently to be declared liabilities of the Reich as well as for interest and other charges on securities of the government of Austria, to the extent that such interest and charges become due after March 12, 1933 and before May 8, 1945," he declared.

The Bonn government acknowledged in principle the debt arising from economic assistance furnished since May 8, 1945, "to the extent to which liability for such debt has not previously been acknowledged in the agreement on economic cooperation concluded on December 15, 1949, between the Federal Republic and the U.S. or for which the Federal government had not already taken over responsibility."

It expressed readiness to give obligations due to foreign economic aid priority over all other foreign claims against Germany or German nationals.

Dr. Herbert Dittman, high West German government official, said in Bonn today that Chancellor Adenauer was deeply satisfied over the revision of the occupation status. He welcomed the granting of freedom to West Germany in internal legislation and freedom to establish a foreign office and set up foreign relations, with certain limitations regarding the foreign bloc.

(See Page Three)

USSR Agrees To Discuss Austria

PARIS, Tuesday (Reuters). — Russia agreed today at the second meeting of the Big Four deputies to include the question of an Austrian peace treaty on the Foreign Ministers' agenda, but otherwise no attempt was made to "marry" the three-point programme submitted yesterday by the Western Powers and the U.S.S.R.

A Western spokesman said. All four deputies spoke at today's five-hour meeting. U.S. Philip Jessup of the U.S. made a 20-minute statement, followed by M. Alexandre Parodi, France, and then by Mr. Ernest Davies of Britain, who spoke for five minutes. M. Andrei Gromyko for the Soviet Union spoke for about 30 minutes and was answered in a short statement by Dr. Jessup and M. Parodi.

A Western spokesman said the agenda put forward on behalf of the U.S., Britain and France was "widely drafted and made no attempt to prejudice solutions of the problems of colour presentation."

In the Russian agenda, on the other hand, he said, "there are bits which do in fact seem to prejudice issues."

Not So Tranquil

The tranquil and unpropaganda-like atmosphere which characterized yesterday's meeting was not quite sustained by the time M. Gromyko had finished speaking, said observers present.

Mr. Davies said that though the draft agenda was far apart there is no reason to believe agreement could not be reached given good-will. Tonight, there is some doubt among the Western delegates whether that good-will would be forthcoming on the Russian side. Certainly Mr. Gromyko's speech has reintroduced the potential atmosphere which has pervaded Four-Power conferences since the war.

At this morning's meeting of the Western delegations in M. Parodi's office, it was agreed that differences were not insuperable. The question now is largely one of priorities. The West is still wholly united and determined not to allow discussion of West German rearmament to be divorced from other considerations. Their objective is to discuss the basic causes of international tension before coming down to specific details. The Russians, on the other hand, plainly hope to make the Foreign Ministers' conference, if it takes place, turn on the question of German rearmament. Then, they hope, if the conference fails, the blame will fall on the West. It is for that reason that so much care is being lavished on the agenda.

No attempt will be made to rush this series of meetings, which is expected to last another week.

U.S., Britain to Sell Planes to Tito

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (UPI). — The U.S. and Britain hope to bolster Yugoslavia's air force by authorizing the sale of commercial and military planes to Marshal Tito's government, U.S. officials disclosed today.

They said consultations on the sale of planes to the Marshal are under way between the State Department and the Foreign Office. The American government has already agreed in principle to the plan. For more than two years, the U.S. has banned the sale of aircraft to Communist countries. But Tito's split with the Cominform and the run-down condition of his air force has prompted a new look at the former policy.

His warning was echoed by Lieutenant-General Matthew Ridgway, Eighth Army Commander. He said he could hold any offensive "at the moment," but the position would be materially altered if the Communists threw in all their forces and additional armies.

An Eighth Army spokesman claimed tonight that U.N. ground troops had inflicted 3,300 casualties on the Communists along the front yesterday.

Today, American troops advanced about one km. east of Hongkong, pivot of the U.N. line. Pilots reported Communist tanks moving towards Hongkong. Small groups of Chinese cavalry were also seen in the area.

A few km. farther east, American troops had to fight off Communist probing attacks at three points. Other American troops occupied Changping, about 40 km. south of the 38th Parallel.

Phone Lines To Tangier Interrupted

Conflicting reports on the Morocco situation continue to pour in. From Paris it is learnt that telephone communications between Morocco and Tangier — and between Tangier and the outside world, as all Tangier calls pass through Rabat central exchange, have been interrupted since yesterday.

A telephone operator at the Paris-Africa telephone exchange said early yesterday that Rabat had informed Paris that Tangier was "unavailable." The Paris operator added that a few official calls had got through to Tangier since the interruption started.

M. Edouard Herriot, speaker of the National Assembly, protested in Parliament yesterday against the campaign about Morocco now being conducted by Egyptian and other papers.

Insult Calumnies

He said "I protest against the insulting and inept calumnies from a country which has in the past accustomed us to expect from it more seemly behaviour."

Mr. Herriot's remarks followed an accusation by the nationalist Algerian Deputy, Ahmed Meersa, that "French policy in Morocco is a policy of appeasement."

From Morocco the situation is reported to be completely calm. There has been no incident in Casablanca where the Itikidal has the most supporters.

In Rabat a judicial inquiry into "spreading false news of such nature as to disturb public order" has been opened as a sequel to extravagant Egyptian press reports.

The Egyptian and Arab press continue to print reports of the fighting in Morocco between nationalists and French troops and mass meetings and protests were held in many Arab countries. In Cairo a Muslim mass meeting was attended by the Arab League's Secretary-General, Azzam Pasha. M. Couve de Murville, French Ambassador in Cairo, asked to see the Egyptian Premier.

A spokesman of the Egyptian Foreign Affairs Ministry last night denied press reports that Egypt was considering breaking off diplomatic relations with France, saying that Egypt had "other ways" of handling the Moroccan question.

(Reuters, UP)

Women's Service Amendment Passes First Knesset Reading

Exchange on Cabinet May Be Aired Today

By Moshe Brilliant

The legislation deleting clauses in the Compulsory Service Law which now permit girls to claim exemption from national service on grounds of religious or conscientious objection passed its first reading in the Knesset last night over the objection of the Religious Bloc. At the same time the area of conflict in this matter between the religious leaders and the Prime Minister narrowed during the debate preceding the vote and there were prospects of last night of an amicable settlement of the issue.

The vote was 32 to 28. Mapai, Mapam, the Progressives, Communists, Wizo, the Fighters and two Herut dissidents voted to send the bill to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, while the measure was opposed by the Religious Bloc, the Nazareth Democrats and the Yemenite as well as Herut and the General Zionists who claimed that the bill had been motivated, not by the merits of the case, but by Mr. Ben Gurion's desire for revenge on the Religious Bloc for breaking up his coalition government. They introduced a motion seeking to shelve further action until after the elections.

Conciliatory Moves

In the debate, Rabbi Kalman Kahane (Poalei Agudat Israel) and Dr. Zerah Warhaftig (Hapoel Hatzair) softened the criticism expressed on Monday night by Social Welfare Minister Rabbi Itzhak M. Levin. They appeared willing to accept the principle of national service for women, but opposed putting them under military discipline. The representatives of "Lamifne," the liberal faction of Hapoel Hatzair, were conspicuously absent during the vote.

In Mr. Ben Gurion's reply to the debate, he made what appeared to be two conciliatory moves:

1. He expressed readiness to discuss the suggestion that the Minister of Labour and not the Defence Minister should enforce the law.
2. He said that if he were entrusted with the enforcement of the bill he would provide for the exemption of some girls on humanitarian grounds. This was taken as an indication that girls from ultra-religious homes would not be conscripted.

The Prime Minister said he was not so much concerned with the form as with the desire to achieve what was necessary. He was determined to close loopholes in the original law, as the clauses which permitted women to shirk their duty by posing as religious had had a bad effect on morale.

Mapam Offer

An issue which came to the fore during the debate was whether the Government was justified in introducing fundamental legislation at a time when it was in the process of liquidation. The Religious Bloc, Herut and General Zionist speakers argued that this was unethical, while Mapam urged the Prime Minister to take advantage of the present position to push through progressive legislation. They pointed out that the two-hour parties had a majority in the House and they promised to support all progressive measures.

Mr. Ben Gurion said that as long as the combination of parties which defeated the Government could not themselves form an alternative Cabinet, they had to permit the outgoing Government to do its job as it saw fit. The affairs of state could not be left suspended for several months until the country is able to hold new elections. He particularly attacked the two Religious Ministers, reminding them that they had given a promise of collective responsibility and until they resigned from the Government they were bound by this promise.

The Prime Minister also attacked critics who had insisted that the standard of morality was lower in the Army than in the cities. He acknowledged that there were faults and that some of the soldiers were "underground characters" but said that on the whole the situation was better than in the past.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

MacA. Warns Of New Enemy Build-Up

TOKYO, Tuesday (Reuters). — U.N. patrols met heavy resistance on the Korean central front today, as General MacArthur warned that the Communists were building up for another big counter-offensive.

American patrols fought their way across the Han River and one entered the outskirts of the battered South Korean capital of Seoul. But all were forced back after heavy exchanges of fire.

Pilots reported North Korean and Chinese troop concentrations building up at several places along the front.

Delay in Action

General MacArthur said the Communists had been fighting a delaying action since their failure to break through the U.N. line on the central front. The action was a screen for the building up of nine to 12 fresh or rehabilitated divisions, the U.N. Commander said in a personal communication.

His warning was echoed by Lieutenant-General Matthew Ridgway, Eighth Army Commander. He said he could hold any offensive "at the moment," but the position would be materially altered if the Communists threw in all their forces and additional armies.

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A few km. farther east, American troops had to fight off Communist probing attacks at three points. Other American troops occupied Changping, about 40 km. south of the 38th Parallel.

U.A. Opens Drive, \$7m. Contributed

NEW YORK, Tuesday (INA). — Contributions to a total exceeding \$7,150,000, the largest campaign opener in history, were announced last night at the opening dinner of New York's 1951 United Jewish Appeal drive.

Senator Herbert Lehman, the principal speaker at the event, told 500 guests that the "success of the U.J.A. in 1951 is terribly important. Time has become our enemy in the struggle to save human lives. In the face of tensions which grip the world, in the face of arbitrary emigration deadlines in the face of an economic crisis in Israel, we must act quickly."

Combined Four-Month Budget Of IL.49M. Proposed to Knesset

Draft proposals for the interim 4-month regular and development budget, together totalling IL.48,800,000 and covering the period from April 1 to July 31, were presented to the Knesset yesterday. The Defence Budget will be discussed later by the House Finance Committee. A IL.380,000 supplementary budget for 1950-51 was also presented.

The new regular budget of IL.24,800,000 is one-third of the 1950-51 regular and supplementary budgets which expire on March 31, with the addition of IL.3,650,000 under the heading "General Economic Reserves." The reserves are based on population increase since the adoption of the 1950-51 budget a year ago, and will be at the disposal of the Finance Minister, who will probably apportion them to Ministries whose tasks have grown with the population rise.

The Ministry of Defence heads the proposed interim expenditure budget, with a projected appropriation of IL.5,000,000. (This is in addition to the secret Defence Budget, which is not specified.) The Ministry of Education and Culture follows with proposed expenditures of IL.1,559,500. IL.1,357,000 are projected for the Ministry of Health, IL.1,163,000 for the Ministry of Police, IL.961,667 for the Ministry of Labour, IL.933,833 for the Ministry of the Interior together with the Ministry of the Interior's Department of Local Government, and IL.779,000 for the Ministry of Social Welfare. IL.1,100,000 is proposed for rehabilitation of soldiers, and a similar sum for the payment of interest and debts.

Income Tax Leads

The list of estimated incomes was headed by income tax of IL.5,432,333, followed by customs of IL.2,063,534, and excise of IL.2,943,273. Surcharges on such commodities as meat are estimated at IL.1,032,333.

The proposed Development Budget totalling IL.34m., appropriated IL.6m. for immigrant housing, IL.13m. for agriculture, and IL.25m. for industrial enterprises. Income for the Development Budget is to come from land bonds, IL.15m., and local and foreign loans, IL.14m.

Italy Gov't. Stakes Life on Defence Move

ROME, Tuesday (UPI). — Premier Alcide De Gasperi torpedoed a non-confidence motion against Defence Minister Riccardo Faccioli today by a parliamentary maneuver that blocked the motion from coming to a vote.

The government introduced an order of the day on the defence appropriation which automatically eliminated all other orders of the day, including the non-confidence motion.

At the same time, however, M. de Gasperi made it known he would consider tonight's vote on his requested defence appropriation a vote of confidence.

Parachutist Who Escaped Death Jumped Again 45 Minutes Later

FIRST AVIV, Tuesday. — The first three men to be mentioned in dispatches by G.H.Q. are Segen Oded Aharbanel, Segen-Mishneh Shmuel Raphael and Sami George Terlos. Their deed dates back to December 14, 1950, when Terlos' parachute was caught by a protruding bolt just under the tail of the plane from which he had jumped. Segen-Mishneh Raphael, the "dispatcher" in the plane, pulled the man in by hauling up the rope and Segen Aharbanel, the pilot, switched off one engine of the plane to facilitate the operation, which took place over the sea. Three-quarters of an hour later, Terlos made a successful jump.

The parachutists were performing before several thousand soldiers that day, in a display intended to publicize the parachute jumping. When Sami Terlos, number eight in a stick of ten, had jumped, one of his parachute lines caught on a protruding bolt. The parachutist did not at first realize what had happened, but he did not lose his presence of mind, and did not open his mouth—otherwise the wind would have cut it wide.

Syria Protests On Hule Draining

A meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission is scheduled to be held today at Metuliah to discuss a Syrian complaint that part of drainage work in the Lake Hule region is being carried out in a demilitarized zone. This will be the second session on this complaint.

A sub-committee of the Israeli-Jordan M.A.C. discussed routine problems at a four-hour meeting yesterday at Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem.

The Palestine Conciliation Commission is expected to meet on Friday to continue its discussions of compensation for Arab refugees.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

Greece and Turkey are invited to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization if recommendations of American military leaders and diplomats are accepted, usually reliable sources in Athens said yesterday. These sources said such a recommendation was made last month by the conference of American Middle East diplomats at Istanbul.

The U.S. Government announced yesterday that all new members of the far reaching would be accepted immediately.

Pakistan asked the U.N. Security Council yesterday to appoint "an outstanding personality" with full powers to resolve the long standing dispute between India and Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir.

Supreme Soviet To Debate Peace Move

MOSCOW, Tuesday (UPI). — Russia's parliament voted today to hold a debate on a resolution appealing to all parliaments in the world to pass legislation outlawing war. The Supreme Soviet met in the Kremlin in a colorful meeting attended by ranking diplomats from throughout the world and top Russian officials.

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